

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Matter that has been deleted from the specification is indicated by brackets and matter that has been added is indicated by underlining.

Please amend the specification as follows:

On Page 1, after the title:

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a continuation of, and claims priority from U.S. Application No. 09/534,487 filed March 24, 2000, which is a continuation of, and claims priority from, U.S. Application No. 09/115,920 filed July 15, 1998, now U.S. Patent No. 6,146,889, which is a continuation of, and claims priority from, U.S. Application No. 08/751,546 filed November 18, 1996, now U.S. Patent No. 5,789,246, which is a divisional of, and claims priority from, U.S. Application No. ~~08/256,696~~ 08/265,696 filed June 24, 1994, which is a continuation of, and claims priority from, U.S. Application No. 07/741,128 filed August 7, 1991, now abandoned, the entire disclosures of each of which are incorporated herein by reference in their entirety.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

A marked-up version of the claims that will be pending following entry of the present amendments and showing the amendments made herein follows. Matter that has been deleted from the claims is indicated by strikethrough and matter that has been added is indicated by underlining. This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Previously Presented) A composition comprising a cell culture of isolated immature animal cells, including liver, pancreas, gut, lung, or bone marrow cells, which contains at least a population of hepatocyte precursor cells capable of differentiating into biliary cells.

2. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 1, wherein the ~~hepatocyte precursor cells are capable of differentiating into biliary cells in~~ cell culture is a serum-free culture medium comprising extracellular matrix and liver stromal cells.

3. (Original) The composition of claim 2, wherein the extracellular matrix is formed from a material comprising collagen, fibronectin, laminin or combinations thereof.

4. (Original) The composition of claim 3, wherein the collagen is type IV collagen.

5. (Original) The composition of claim 3, wherein the collagen is used alone or in combination with proteoglycans, or tissue extracts enriched in extracellular matrix materials.

6. (Original) The composition of claim 2, wherein the extra cellular matrix is coated upon a porous solid support.

7. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 6, wherein the solid support comprises MILLICELL membrane support, filters, sponges, and hollow fiber systems.

8. (Original) The composition of claim 2, wherein the liver stromal cells are embryonic liver stromal cells.

9. (Original) The composition of claim 2, wherein the liver stromal cells are fetal liver stromal cells.

10. (Original) The composition of claim 1 which comprises a growth factor.

11-20. (Canceled)

21. (New) A composition consisting essentially of isolated immature animal cells, including liver, pancreas, gut, lung, or bone marrow cells, which contains at least a population of hepatocyte precursor cells capable of differentiating into biliary cells.

22. (New) A composition comprising a population of isolated cells enriched in immature animal cells, including liver, pancreas, gut, lung, or bone marrow cells, which contains at least a population of hepatocyte precursor cells capable of differentiating into biliary cells.